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Photos

- 1 Arogos Skipper (*Atrytone arogos*) by Steve Hall
- 2 Eastern Fox Squirrel (*Sciurus niger*) by Terry Shankle
- 3 Loggerhead Sea Turtle (*Caretta caretta*) by NC Wildlife Resources Commission
- 4 (background) Large roundleaf orchid (*Platanthera orbiculata*) by Misty Franklin
- 5 Dune grasses by Dale Suiter
- 6 Photo by Johnny Randall
- 7 Virginia Big-eared Bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii virginianus*) by Seth Lambiase
- 8 Sandhills lily (*Lilium pyrophilum*) by Bruce Sorrie

Program Overview

North Carolina contains thousands of species of native plants and animals. In fact, our state's level of biodiversity is among the highest in the nation.

Collectively, these native plants and animals, and the places in which they live and grow, are known as North Carolina's **natural heritage**. Approximately 20 percent of our native species are at-risk for extinction, due to a variety of causes. Our state focuses its conservation and protection efforts on these vulnerable species.

The **N.C. Natural Heritage Program** (NCNHP) collects information about the locations of rare native plants and animals, natural communities, and special animal habitats across North Carolina. We also identify Significant Natural Heritage Areas, the land and water that is important for the conservation of our state's biodiversity.

NCNHP Mission

NCNHP strives to provide a scientific basis for effective conservation by compiling information on rare species and natural communities and distributing the information to the public and other agencies for planning and protection efforts.

